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YMCA of Greater Erie

YMCA Mission: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

Request for Coverage

Event: Y-USA Marks 125th Anniversary of Camping
Highlights: Glenwood Park YMCA
Date/Location: Wednesday, July 14, 2010, 6 -7:30 p.m.
Contact: Tammy Roche, 566-9597
ON SITE: Debbie Anderson

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF CAMPING AT THE YMCA

The YMCA of Greater Erie Continues to Reshape Lives Every Summer

Wednesday, July 14, 2010 – What began 125 years ago as one small group of YMCA campers seeking to grow closer in the solace of nature and work together as a team has blossomed into a summer phenomenon that has changed the lives of millions of youth around the world. This year, the YMCA celebrates the 125th anniversary of camping at the YMCA, and the YMCA of Greater Erie will join hundreds of the nation's YMCA camps in recognizing this milestone. In honor of the 125th anniversary of camping, YMCA camps across the country will hold the "World's Largest Campfire" on Wednesday, July 14. The YMCA of Greater Erie will hold its campfire and family cookout at the Glenwood Park YMCA playground (adjacent to the Y), 3727 Cherry Street.

"The YMCA of Greater Erie is proud to be a part of the long-standing tradition of camping at the YMCA," says Debbie Anderson, Child Care Director, Glenwood Park YMCA. "The YMCA has helped shape camping, as well as the lives of millions of campers, for well over a century."

Camping officially began at the YMCA in 1885, when a volunteer named Sumner Dudley helped start the first continuously-used camp in Orange Lake, N.Y. The first YMCA camps were small, consisting of a cluster of tents, lined up near a lake, a continuous camp fire and a flagpole.

Dudley's goal was to help build character in seven teenagers during their week-long camping trip. Over the years, as more YMCAs believed that the camping experience nurtured young people's values and leadership skills, camps would expand and change to serve males and females of many ages, race, ethnicity, abilities and family incomes.

From the beginning, campers developed an appreciation for the outdoors, while forming new friendships and developing healthy life-long skills. Continuing the tradition, at the YMCA of Greater Erie, kids and teens develop skills, create memories and grow in the spirit of honesty, respect, caring and responsibility.

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During the last 125 years, the YMCA has become one of the nation's largest providers of camping programs, with more than 335 resident camps and nearly 2,000 day camps that serve more than 800,000 kids and adults every summer. Each year, an additional 1.5 million people participate in camp programs through YMCA family camps, weekend retreats, outdoor education, and school camping.

For more information, visit www.ymcaerie.org, or contact Debbie Anderson at 868-0867.

About the YMCA of Greater Erie: The mission of the YMCA of Greater Erie is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all. Integral to all YMCA programs is character development and developmental assets. **Character** Development is based on the four YMCA core **values**-caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

For 150 years, the YMCA of Greater Erie has been dedicated to building strong kids, strong families and strong communities. It is also the belief of the YMCA that no one should ever be denied services because of inability to pay. Additionally, our income-based membership ensures that everyone can belong to the YMCA.

Our four convenient locations throughout the Erie region offer programs for all ages from our creative and fun youth sports programs to a wide variety of active older adults' classes. Our award winning early learning care for children is offered at twenty locations throughout Erie County. A fit lifestyle and a philosophy dedicated to honesty, caring, respect and responsibility, the YMCA of Greater Erie celebrates a century and a half of services to our community.

To learn more visit www.ymcaerie.org.

Gifts and bequests to the YMCA of Greater Erie will perpetuate your interest in youth and family development.

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

